

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/759,438	KUBOTA, KOJI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Allyson N Trail	2876	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the preliminary filed January 20, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 2.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 January 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>1/20/2004</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Preliminary Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Preliminary Amendment filed January 20, 2004.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1 and 2 are allowable over prior art.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art teaches color balance adjustment devices used in digital cameras, CCDs, and solid-state image sensors. Prior art additionally teaches color balance correction circuits, AGC circuits for controlling the gains of the signals, and amplification circuits, all of which are used in the above mentions image sensors. Prior art however, fails to teach the specific apparatus and method for adjusting color balance of an image sensing apparatus as disclosed in independent claims 1 and 2. The apparatus and method include a solid-state electronic image sensing device for sensing the image of a subject and outputting color image data of a plurality of colors representing the image of the subject. The apparatus and method also include a color balance adjusting device, which is capable of performing amplification for each item of color image data, for carrying out a color balance adjustment. This is done by amplifying each item of color image data of the plurality of colors output from the solid-state electronic image sensing device. Additionally included in the apparatus and method for adjusting color balance of an image sensing apparatus is a determination device for determining whether a high-sensitivity image sensing mode has been set and a color balance control device for controlling the color balance adjusting device. The color balance control device controls

the color balance adjusting device in accordance with a determination by the determination device that the high-sensitivity image sensing mode has been set. This step is performed in such a manner that an amplification factor will change in comparison with an amplification factor that prevails when a determination made by the determination device is that the high-sensitivity image sensing mode has not been set. The specific features of the claimed method and apparatus for adjusting the color balance of a solid-state image sensing device could not be found in prior art and moreover, one of ordinary skill would not have been motivated to come to the above claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Yamazaki (2004/0071370), Yamamoto (2003/0123756), Yamaguchi (2002/0012064), Tatsumi (2001/0052992), Imaizumi et al (2004/0186351), Matsumoto (2002/0047988), and Sakata et al (5,119,178).

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to *Allyson N. Trail* whose telephone number is (571) 272-2406. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 7:30AM to 4:00PM Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee, can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [allyson.trail@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Allyson N. Trail
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2876
November 10, 2004



KARL D. FRECH
PRIMARY EXAMINER